

RTF C23-1 Winter 84-85
EXPERIMENTAL FILM: INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY
Chuck Kleinhans & Donna Kennedy
TuTh 3-5 325 Annie May Swift

An introduction to and historical survey of major trends in the film avant garde. Emphasis on the development of American experimental film and recurrent aesthetic questions in experimental work.

Prerequisite: RTF Intro to Film History and Criticism (new B20;old B84). The course will combine screenings, lectures, discussions, and readings. Attendance is important and will help determine the grade. Films will be seen in-class and cannot be seen at other times. Assigned work includes short reports on off-campus screenings (field work in Chicago's experimental film and video scene), a midterm and an in-class final that takes place the last two days of class. Graduate students will do additional reading and reports on screenings.

This course is a required prerequisite for C23-2, a topic oriented course on experimental film and video which will deal with personal, autobiographical, and portrait work in Spring 85. It can be completed with creative work, C23-1 cannot.

Required texts (available at Norris Center Store)

Dawn Ades, Dada and Surrealism
Donald M Lowe, History of Bourgeois Perception
Jonathan Rosenbaum, Film: The Front Line--1983
P. A. Sitney, Visionary Film
Amos Vogel, Film as a Subversive Art
Stan Brakhage, Brakhage Scrapbook: Collected Writings

- Tu Jan 8 course administration
 Introduction and overview
 Critical Categories: the example of structural film
 APRIL 3 (Michelle Citron) 16mm, color, sound
 WAVELENGTH (Michael Snow) 1968, 16mm, color, sound, 45 min.
- Th Jan 10 reading: Rosenbaum on Snow
 Vogel, to p. 30
 Brakhage, "A Motion Picture Giving and Taking Book" 53-77.
 WINDOW WATER BABY MOVING (Stan Brakhage) 16mm, color, silent,
 1959, 12 min.
 SINCERITY I (Brakhage) 1973, 16mm, color, silent, 27 min.
- Tu Jan 15 reading: Vogel, 60-72; 191-202; Sitney 93-135
 Ades: all
 CHIEN ANDALOU (Luis Bunuel & Salvador Dali)
 ENTR'ACTE (Rene Clair)
 SCORPIO RISING (Kenneth Anger) 1963, 16mm, 29 min, color, sound.
- Th Jan 17 Reading: Sitney 293-304; Lowe 1-58
 Peter Kubelka
 MOSAIK IM VERTRANEN, 54-55, 16.5 min
 ANDEBAR, 56-57, 1.5 min.
 SCHWECHATER 57-58, 1 min.
 ARNULF RAINER, 58-60, 6.5 min.
 UNSERE AFRIKAREISE 61-66, 12.5 min.

- Tu Jan 22 reading: Sitney 1-46; Vogel 76-107; Lowe 59-83
MESHERS OF THE AFTERNOON (Maya Deren & Alexander Hammid) 1943,
18 min. b&w, silent/or sound
- Th Jan 24 reading: Lowe, 85-139; handout on SEASHELL
L'ETOILE DE MER (Man Ray)
THE SEASHELL AND THE CLERGYMAN (Germaine Dulac) 1928, 39 min.
b&w, silent, 18fps.
- Tu Jan 29 reading: Vogel 32-44, 120-172; Lowe, finish
INTRODUCTION ...SCHOENBERG (Jean-Marie Straub and Daniele
Huillet) color, sound
ENTHUSIASM (SYMPHONY OF THE DON BASIN) (Dziga Vertov)
67 min, b&w, sound
- Th Jan 31 Reading: Sitney 136-227
SINCERITY II (Brakhage) 16mm, color, silent, 40 min. 1975
Midterm exam
- Tu Feb 5 reading: Sitney 163-173
MR. HAYASHI (Bruce Baillie) 1961, 16mm 3 min. b&w Sound
TO PARSIFAL (Baillie) 1963, 16mm, 16 min. color/sound
MASS FOR THE DAKOTA SIOUX (Baillie) 16mm 20 min. b&w, sound
- Th Feb 7 CASTRO STREET (Baillie) 1966, 16mm color & b&w, sound
VALENTIN DE LAS SIERRAS (Baillie) 16mm, 10 min, color, sound. 1966
ROSLYN ROMANCE (Baillie), 1974, 16mm, 17 min. color, sound.
- Tu Feb 12 SERENE VELOCITY (Ernie Gehr) 16mm, color,
ANALOGIES (Peter Rose) 16mm, color, sound,
- Th Feb 14 THE NUN (Jacques Rivette), color, sound,
- Tu Feb 19 SINCERITY III (Brakhage) 16mm, 35 min. color, silent
- Th Feb 21 NEW YORK NEAR SLEEP (FOR SASKIA) (Peter Hutton) 16mm, 10 min.
b&w silent
IMAGES OF ASIAN MUSIC (Hutton) 16mm, 29 min, b&w, silent
- Tu Feb 26 NEW YORK PORTRAIT, CHAPTER ONE (Hutton) 16mm, 1978-79, 16min,
b&w, silent
- Tu Feb 28 AMY! (Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen) 33 min. color, sound.

Final exam films

- Tu Mar 5 PAUSE! (KUBELKA) 12 min, color, sound.
FUJI (Robert Breer) color, sound
SONGS FOR SWINGING LARVAE (Graehme Wifler & Ralph Records) 6 min
color, sound
- Th Mar 7 NEW YORK PORTRAIT, CHAPTER TWO (Hutton) 1980-81, 16mm, 16min
b&w, silent
DAUGHTERS OF CHAOS (Marjorie Keller) 16mm, 20 min. color, sound.

Course readings notes: After Feb 5 readings are not specifically assigned, however you are expected to finish the books: Vogel, Sitney, Brakhage, and Rosenbaum. They will be covered on the exam.

Midterm: a quix-type exam of the course to that point, and an essay after screening SINCERITY II.

Final: in-class during the last week of classes, based on films screened in class.

Outside screenings. Students must attend four (4) off-campus outside screenings of experimental film and/or video work. Suitable screenings will be listed outside of Chuck's door (316 AMS). a one-two page report on each screening is required, which can be handed in anytime up to the final day of class.

One or two additional screenings will be arranged at the School of the Art Institute and scheduled for weekday mornings.

Graduate students are required to do two reports. One on a book from readings on reserve at the library (list below), and one on a film/tape from our collection (list will follow)

The following books are on 2 hr/overnight reserve

Renan, Sheldon. An Introduction to the American Undergorund Film
Mekas, Jonas. Movie Journal
Youngblood, Gene. Expanded Cinema
Battcock, Gregory, ed. The New American Cinema
Sitney, P. A. Film Culture Reader
Tyler, Parker. Underground Film
Curtis, David. Experimental Film
Hanhardt, John. A History of the American Avant-Garde Cinema.
Dwoskin, Steve. Film Is...

outside screening locations: (always phone first on the day of the event)
School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Columbus at Jackson. Drive--outer drive to Ontario to Columbus-park in Monroe or Grant garages or on Columbus. // El: exit at Jackson, walk east.

Chicago Filmmakers. 6 W. Hubbard. Off of Statestreet, 2 blocks N. of the river. El: Grand: walk south 2 blocks.

Center for New Television: 11 E. Hubbard. same as above.

Randolph Street Gallery (EXperimental Film Coalition). 756 N. Milwaukee. phone CTA for best route--Milwaukee Ave. bus from loop or from NW cross street. Driving, S on Ashland, turn S. on Milwaukee.

There may be some appropriate screenings at FAcets Multi-Media on Fullerton near Ashland or at their Columbia College location on Michigan Ave.

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